

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN EA-04

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DRAFTED BY: EA: IMS: PCGILL

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R 202312 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS STATE 071770

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SINGAPORE, KUALA LUMPUR, JAKARTA,
MANILA, BANGKOK, CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, LONDON, CINCPAC APRIL
17, 1973 FROM SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 071770

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A.

TAGS: PFOR, SN.

SUBJ: LEE KUAN YEW INTERVIEW ON MEET THE PRESS

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF LEE KUAN YEW MEET THE PRESS
INTERVIEW WHICH WAS BROADCAST APRIL 15:

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER U. S. HAD ACHIEVED PEACE WITH HONOR
IN VIET- NAM, LEE REPLIED "... I THINK I CAN SAY THIS, THAT
YOU DISENGAGED FROM VIET- NAM IN AN HONORABLE WAY. WHETHER
THERE IS PEACE IN VIET- NAM IS ANOTHER MATTER."

3. REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT IN VIET- NAM, LEE SAID " I THINK
I CAN SAY THAT THE U. S. HAS GOT THE BEST POSSIBLE DEAL
IT COULD HAVE GOT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO DISENGAGE
AMERICAN FORCES ..."

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4. CONCERNING CONTINUING U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA, LEE SAID " I THINK WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A CERTAIN EQUILIBRIUM BECAUSE YOU, FOR GOOD OR BAD REASONS, HAD DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A PRESENCE. THEN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THOSE PREMISES, THAT THERE WILL BE A CONTINUING PRESENCE, WILL BE THROWN INTO CONSIDERABLE DISARRAY IF THAT PRESENCE WERE SUDDENLY REMOVED... EVERYONE LIKES TO SAY ... YANKEE GO HOME, BUT WHO COMES IN, BECAUSE THE VACUUM WILL BE FILLED, AND IF IT IS FILLED BY

A MUCH MORE CLUMSY, MORE HEAVYHANDED POWER, LIFE WOULD BECOME A GREAT DEAL MORE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR THE SMALLER COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA."

5. DISCUSSING THE POSITION OF THAILAND, LEE STATED "... IF SOUTH VIET- NAM WERE TO GO COMMUNIST IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THAT THAILAND AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WOULD GO COMMUNIST, BECAUSE THE MOOD TODAY IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE MOOD IN 1954 AFTER DIEN BIEN PHU, WHEN EVERYBODY BELIEVED IT WAS INVINCIBLE, THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE."

6. COMPLETE TEXT OF INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED. ROGERS
UNQUOTE PORTER

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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